



# Worm Bin

This system is designed for composting vegetable food scraps using brown-nosed worms. Food scraps and worms are "bedded" in shredded and moistened newspaper, cardboard, peat or brown leaves. The worms turn both food scrap and bedding into a high-quality compost suitable for use on house plants, seedlings or general garden use.

To maintain this system, rotate burial of food scraps throughout the bin. Every three to six months, compost should be moved to one side of the bin and new bedding added to the empty half. At this time, start burying scraps in the new bedding only. Within one month worms will populate the new bedding. Finished compost may be harvested and the rest of the bin can be re-bedded. During the winter, worm bins should be kept in a cool indoor space such as a basement or warm garage to avoid freezing. A properly maintained worm bin is odorless. Bins may be placed in a shady outdoor space the remainder of the year. Flies may be controlled by placing a sheet of plastic over the bedding.

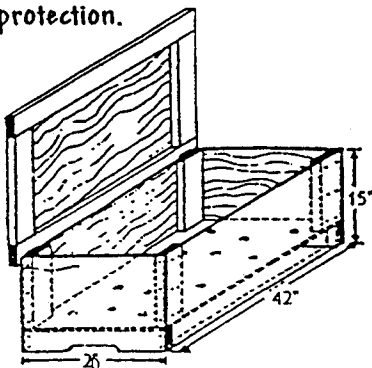
Any worm bin must have drainage in the bottom and a tight fitting lid to keep moisture in and pests out. A starter batch of worms can be purchased at a small additional cost (approximately \$20.00 a pound).

## Materials

- One 1/2 inch sheet of plywood
- One 12 foot 2x4
- Two 8 foot 2x4
- One pound of 6d galvanized nails
- One pound of 16d galvanized nails
- Two galvanized door hinges

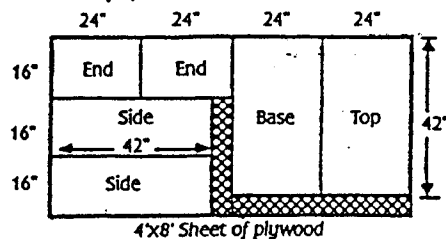
## Tools

Tape measure, skill saw or rip hand saw, hammer, saw horses, long straight edge or chalk snap line, screwdriver and drill with 1/2-inch bit, as well as eye and ear protection.

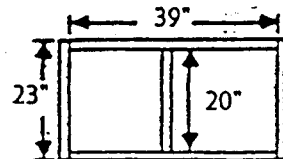


## Steps

- Measure and cut plywood as indicated in the diagram.

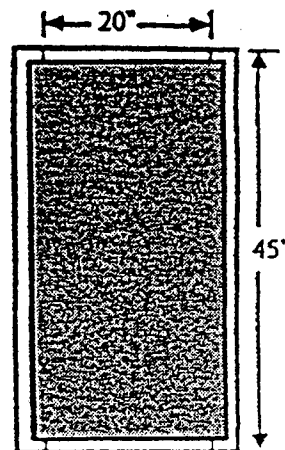


- Cut the 12 ft. 2x4 into five pieces: two 39 in, two 23 in, and one 20 in long. Nail the 2x4s together on edge with two 16d nails at each joint as illustrated in the diagram below. Nail the plywood base piece onto the 2x4 frame.



Base frame 2x4s on edge

- Cut four 1 foot lengths out of one of the 8 foot 2x4. Take each plywood side piece and place a 2 foot 2x4 under each of its ends so that the 2x4 is flush with the top and side edges of the plywood, and nail the boards into place.
- Nail the side pieces onto the base frame. Nail the ends onto the base and sides. Make sure there is a nail staggered at least every 3 inches wherever plywood and 2x4s meet.
- Drill twelve 1/2 inch holes through the bottom of the box for drainage.
- For the lid, cut the remaining 2x4s into two 45 inch and two 20 inch pieces and lay them flat with the short pieces on the inside as indicated below, so that the plywood top is inset from the edges of the 2x4 by 1-1/2 inches all the way around the perimeter. Nail plywood onto the 2x4 securely. Place the hinges on the backside of the box at both ends on the 2x4 lid frame.



Top lid 2x4 frame with plywood cover